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Fugitive Financier Tried To Join CIA

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Fugitive Rancho Santa Fe millionaire Walter Wencke tried to get a job with the Central Intelligence Agency last year before he disappeared after failing to surrender for a five-year prison sentence.

"It would take many individuals with different skills to accomplish what I can do alone," Wencke wrote in his April 2, 1979, job application. "Further, the many would have difficulty in synthesizing the overall picture."

The maneuver by the elusive Wencke came to light before U.S. Magistrate Harry R. McCue during a hearing on why Wencke's former wife, Cathryn, and daughter, Wenda, should not be held in contempt of court in connection with a longstanding order to produce massive volumes of business and stock records relating to the corporate maze Wencke created.

There was no indication in court yesterday that the CIA responded to Wencke's application. Attempts to contact the local CIA office were unsuccessful.

The pending contempt matter, to continue today, relates to a 1976 action by the Securities and Exchange Commission, accusing Wencke and others of taking part in a scheme in which they gained control of and looted several public companies, including Sun Fruit Ltd. and Time Lenders.

Wencke has been a fugitive since failing to surrender last Oct. 9 for a prison term on his mail fraud conviction involving the operations of Sun Fruit.

During the contempt matters pressed before McCue, SEC attorney Ernest Kaufmann was allowed to question Mrs. Wencke and produced the CIA job application, which she admitted typing for her former husband.

In the letter, Wencke wrote: "I have the unique capability of walking through a Chinese, Russian or Japanese manufacturing plant and making an accurate assessment of its actual and potential production. I could have entre into those plants in the guise of purchasing from or selling to them."

Wencke writes that he has owned over 40 businesses including machine shops, computerized bookkeeping, tunaboats, banks, savings and loan associations and boat manufacturing companies.

"I have a background of Chinese, Japanese, Russian and other languages," the letter states. "I was in



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military intelligence in World War II. I also possessed security clearance by virtue of manufacturing top secret items for the War Department during the Vietnamese years."

The letter goes on: "I anticipate that I will shortly become a guest of the government at Lompoc for a period of 20 months as a result of a conviction for securities fraud involving a vineyard and hotel company. Please refer to the newspaper clippings (attached to the application)."

The letter, according to sources, was among boxes of records already submitted to R.N. Gould, the court-appointed receiver for several Wencke entities, by Mrs. Wencke. Some records still are being sought.

Wencke, in the alleged CIA job application, told the agency if it needed further background it could check the San Diego FBI files, U.S. District Court records here and the U.S. attorney's office.

The continuing contempt hearing today will focus on some records still being sought for Gould.